(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has published a study report on the quality of Ganga water during 2008-09;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that according to the report, the Ganga water is not suitable even for general bath;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the factors responsible for the degradation of the quality of Ganga water; and

(d) the contribution of each factor to the degradation of Ganga water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Planning Commission prepared a report in May, 2009 on utilisation of funds and assets created through Ganga Action Plan (GAP) in States. According to the report, the water quality of the river indicates some improvement over the pre-GAP period as per the water quality monitoring done by reputed independent institutions. The analysis of water quality at 16 monitoring stations on the river during 1986-2008 showed reduction in Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) in all the stations, except two, indicating improvement in water quality. However, at 7 of these 16 locations, BOD levels do not meet the standards for bathing water. Dissolved Oxygen (DO) levels have shown improvement at 4 locations. In terms of total coliform count, the permissible limits for bathing water were exceeded at a number of monitoring stations. The situation would have been worse without the sewage treatment infrastructure created under GAP. The coliform count has increased particularly at pilgrimage places due to bathing to pilgrims. According to the report, the major factors affecting the water quality are; wide gap between domestic sewage generation and sewage treatment capacity created, discharge of untreated industrial effluents in the industrial pockets along the rivers, under utilization of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) due to reasons like irregular power supply, absence of connections between domestic sewage drains and STPs, failure of States to provide for maintenance cost of the STPs, etc.

Disposal of e-waste

1887. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has admitted that e-waste generation is likely to increase in the next few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the big cities are generating more e-waste and no systematic methods exist to make proper disposal of e-waste; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to ensure proper disposal of e-waste without having any pollution effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Based on a survey carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), it is estimated that 1,46,800 tonnes of e-waste was generated in the country in the year 2005, which is expected to increase to 8,00,000 by 2012. The top ten cities generating e-waste are Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Kolkata Chennai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Pune, Surat and Nagpur.

(d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008 for proper management and handling of hazardous wastes which include e-waste. As per the Rules, units handing e-waste need to register with CPCB. The hazardous wastes generated shall be sent or sold to a registered or authorized recycler or re-processor or re-user.

Further, the Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of e-waste published by CPCB provide the approach and methodology for environmentally sound management of e-waste, which include details such as e-waste composition and recycle potential of items of economic value, identification of possible hazardous contents in e-waste, the recycle, re-use and recovery options, treatment and disposal options and the environmentally sound e-waste treatment technologies. The Guidelines emphasize the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility.

Conservation of carbon-storing forests

1888. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the remarks made by DG World Agroforestry Centre in Nairobi, during August, 2009, that farmers are protecting and planting trees spontaneously thereby strengthening Government's efforts to conserve carbon-storing forests; and

(b) if so, whether a sustained programme can be launched to motivate farmers to plant and nurture maximum number of fruit bearing trees, which apart from giving them additional income, would also be a positive step towards combating global warming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is aware of the declaration made in the World Congress of Agro-forestry in August, 2009. The Government's initiatives on the Subject are:

(i) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Afforestation Programme" being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for regeneration of degraded of forests and adjoining areas in the country encourages production of non timber products such as wax, honey, fruits and nuts from the regenerated areas;